

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 08872 301349Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-05 /069 W
-----301527Z 031899 /43

R 301256Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1128
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN
USIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 8872

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SY
SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 30

1. SUMMARY: SYRIAN MEDIA GAVE PROMINENCE TO MEETING
ARAB AMBASSADORS HELD WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER TO OBJECT
TO FLOW OF U.S. ADVANCED WEAPONS TO ISRAEL; TO CALL BY
WALDHEIM FOR A JUST AND "IMMEDIATE" SOLUTION TO MIDDLE
EAST CRISIS, AND TO LEBANESE DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY INCLUDING
MESSAGE TO ASAD FROM SARKIS. EDITORIALS DEALT WITH TWO
THEMES: PRES-ELECT CARTER'S INTENTION TO CONSULT WITH
AREA'S LEADERS BEFORE FORMULATING U.S. POLICY TOWARDS
MIDEAST AND CONTINUATION OF ATTACKS ON IRAQI GOVERNMENT.

2. SYRIAN PRESS HEADLINED MESSAGE PRES.ASAD RECEIVED
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DAMASC 08872 301349Z

FROM LEBANESE PRES. ARKIS AND ALSO GAVE PROMINENCE TO
MESSAGE SUPPORT TO ASAD FROM LEBANESE RAZKARI PARTY
(KURDISH) PRAISING ASAD FOR FOILING PLANS OF "TRIBAL
TAKRITI REGIME WHICH LIVING IN SUFFOCATING ISOLATION..."
EDITORIALS CONTINUED SYRIAN PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE
IRAQI GOVERNMENT IN WAKE ARRESTS ALLEGED PLOTTERS IN

KHADDAM ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. SAME LINE FOLLOWED AS PREVIOUS DAY'S EDITORIALS, CLAIMING THAT SYRIAN ABLE TO RETALIATE BUT REFUSED SUCH DIRTY METHODS BECAUSE OF ITS "NOBEL PRINCIPLES." ONE EDITORIAL EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT IRAQI LEADERS WOULD SUCCUMB TO HISTORY AND THE "STRUGGLING PEOPLE IN IRAQ."

3. SYRIAN PAPERS QUOTED INFORMED SOURCES THAT DURING MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND ARAB AMBASSADORS LAST THURSDAY, AMBASSADORS EXPRESSED REGRET U.S. MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL HAD REACHED SUCH "GRAVE" LEVELS UNPRECEDENTED IN RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND ISRAEL. ARAB AMBASSADORS SAID TO HAVE EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT SUPPLYING SUCH MODERN AND ADVANCED WEAPONS CONTRADICTS U.S. ADMINISTRATION'S ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO WORK FOR PEACE IN AREA AND WILL LEAD TO DETERIORATION IN MIDEAST SITUATION.

4. PROMINENT ATTENTION ALSO GIVEN VISIT OF LEBANESE DEP PRIMIN AND MIN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE, FUAD BUTROS, WHO CONVEYED MESSAGE FROM SARKIS TO ASAD DURING MEETING ALSO ATTENDED BY SYRIAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ABDUL KARIM ADI. NO DETAILS GIVEN. ARTICLES MENTIONED LEBANESE PRIMIN HUSS VISIT TO EGYPT AND LIBYA AND HUSS STATEMENTS CLAIMING SUPPORT FROM PRES. SADAT FOR ANY MEASURES LEBANESE POLITICAL LEADERS ADOPT REGARDING "A SUITABLE FORMULA FOR RESTORATION OF NORMALITY" IN COUNTRY.

5. REGARDING PRES-ELECT CARTER'S EXPRESSED WISH TO CONSULT WITH AREA'S LEADERS BEFORE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 DAMASC 08872 301349Z

SHAPING U.S. POLICY IN REGION, AL-BAATH EDITORIAL STRUCK SKEPTICAL CHORD, NOTING THAT SUCH STATEMENTS WERE TRADITIONAL WITH NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATIONS BUT DO NOT PREVENT THEM FROM SUPPLYING TEL AVIV WITH THE MOST SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS BEFORE EVEN EXTRACTING A PLEDGE FROM ISRAELIS FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED LANDS. COLUMNIST DESCRIBED U.S. POLICY AS ENCOURAGEMENT FOR ISRAEL TO "MANEUVER." AL-THAWRAH EDITORIAL COMMENTED THAT ARABS CANNOT OFFICIALLY ASK CARTER TO DO ANYTHING UNTIL HE ASSUMES OFFICE BUT REQUESTED HIM TO GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO IMPORTANCE AND SERIOUSNESS MIDEAST CRISIS. EDITORIAL CALLED ON U.S. TO EXERCISE ITS INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN PREVENTING EXPLOSION IN AREA AND PROTECTING U.S. INTERESTS "WHICH CANNOT BE PROTECTED BY PROVOKING ARAB HOSTILITY AND BY CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR THE ZIONIST ENTITY."
MURPHY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS SUMMARIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC08872
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760476-0330
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976124/aaaaadlm.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <28 DEC 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 30
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006